



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES NORTH CAROLINA LEADS THE NATION IN NATIONAL
BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS FOR 13th YEAR**

Wake County is No. 2 School District Nationally, Charlotte-Mecklenburg is No. 4

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley announced today that North Carolina again leads the nation in the total number of teachers who have earned certification by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. With 14,211 teachers across the state now certified, nearly 15 percent of North Carolina teachers have achieved National Board certification. North Carolina also ranked second in the nation in the number of newly certified teachers, with 1,453 earning the recognition this year.

"National Board Certified teachers are recognized across the country as some of the best educators in their profession," Easley said. "We are fortunate and honored that almost one-fifth of the nation's 74,000 certified educators are teaching in North Carolina classrooms."

While North Carolina is the number one state in the nation for its number of teachers with national certification, Wake County ranks 2nd among all school districts in the nation for its number of National Board Certified teachers (1,487) and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools ranks 4th. Guilford and Forsyth counties also ranked among the top 20 counties in the nation.

National Board Certification, the highest credential in the teaching profession, requires an extensive series of performance-based assessments including teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes and thorough analyses of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning. Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge, as well as their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students.

North Carolina supports teachers' efforts to achieve National Board Certification in the following ways:

- Payment up front of the \$2,500 assessment fee. (Teachers are obligated to teach in the state the following year whether or not they achieve certification.)
- Three paid release days from normal teacher responsibilities to develop their portfolios.
- A 12-percent salary supplement to the teachers' regular salary, good for the 10-year life of the certification.
- 15 continuing education units (CEUs) awarded to the individual for completing the National Board Certification process.